

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAJ-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 ACDA-05 IO-10 /072 W
----- 104389

R 090930Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 499

INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 5208

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, IN, PK

SUBJ: INDIAN PROPOSAL ON INDO-PAK FORCE
REDUCTION

REF: A. STATE 128021 B. NEW DELHI 6859

1. MFA DIRECTOR GENERAL (SOUTH ASIA) HAYAT MEHDI
CONFIRMS THAT INDIAN FOREIGN SECRETARY KEWAL SINGH
DID PROPOSE MUTUAL INDO-PAK BORDER FORCE THINOUT
AT MAY 15-20 NEW DELHI NEGOTIATIONS.

2. AS MEHDI RECALLED CONTEXT OF PROPOSAL, PAK
DELEGATION HAD BEEN SEEKING TO REASSURE INDIAN COUNTER-
PARTS THAT CHANGE IN US MILITARY SUPPLY DID NOT
REPRESENT THREAT TO INDIAN SECURITY. KEWAL SINGH THEN
INTERVENED TO SUGGEST THAT VARIOUS MEASURES COULD BE
TAKEN TO BUILD MUTUAL CONFIDENCE, MENTIONING
SPECIFICALLY REDUCTION OF BORDER FORCES. (MEHDI SAID
THAT INDIANS HAD NOT RAISED MUTUAL INSPECTIONS, BUT HE
RECALLED THAT HE HAD SEEN A MEMO WHICH HAD MENTIONED
THAT THE GOI HAD MADE SUCH A PROPOSAL SOME TIME IN
THE PAST). PAKS HAD REPLIED, ACCORDING TO MEHDI, THAT
THIS SEEMED A GOOD IDEA AND GOP WAS PREPARED TO
CONSIDER THE PROPOSAL. HE TOLD US THAT MFA WAS IN
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CONTACT WITH OTHER ELEMENTS IN GOP--"THE MILITARY

AND OTHER"-- TO SEE WHAT COULD BE WORKED OUT . PAKS
PRESUMED, MEHDI SAID, THAT THIS WOULD BE ONE TOPIC FOR
FUTURE INDO-PAK TALKS.

3. MEHDI SAID HE FOUND ENCOURAGING FACT THAT INDIANS
HAD FOLLOWED UP THEIR JANUARY 1975 MESSAGE TO USG ON
THINOUT WITH PROPOSAL AT NEW DELHI. IN JANUARY,
MEHDI RECALLED, INDIANS HAD BEEN SEEKING TO PERSUADE
USG NOT TO CHANGE ITS SOUTH ASIA ARMS POLICY: THEY WERE
TRYING TO DEMONSTRATE THEIR COMMITMENT TO NORMALIZA-
TION PROCESS AND TO CALL ATTENTION TO DANGERS TO
PROCESS THAT RESUMED FLOW OF US ARMS TO PAKISTAN WOULD
(ACCORDING TO THEM) INVOLVE. INDIANS' INTEREST IN
BRINGING UP PROPOSAL IN MAY DESPITE CHANGE IN US
POLICY, AND THEIR NOT FINDING IN POLICY CHANGE A
REA GON FOR GIVING UP IDEA, WAS A GOOD SIGN, HE SAID.
BYROADE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FORCE & TROOP LEVELS, TROOP REDUCTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 JUN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: greeneet
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975ISLAMA05208
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750200-1054
From: ISLAMABAD
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750669/aaaackwt.tel
Line Count: 78
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 128021, 75 NEW DELHI 6859
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greeneet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 AUG 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05 AUG 2003 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <25 NOV 2003 by greeneet>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: INDIAN PROPOSAL ON INDO-PAK FORCE REDUCTION
TAGS: PFOR, MARR, IN, PK
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006